

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a command from a predetermined user;

processing said command by utilizing a memory section including a first area for storing data of at least one user and a second area set in an unused area of said first area, said second area used by said at least one user stored in said first area and managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, and storing plural data for respectively prescribing different access rights to said at least one user in said first area, wherein the block unit includes a plurality of blocks that ~~define~~ include a first block number and a second block number, said first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user; and

transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a receiving means for receiving a command from a predetermined user;

a processing means for processing said command;

a transmitting means for transmitting results of said processing; and

a memory means including a first area for storing data of at least one user and a second area set in an unused area of said first area, said second area used by said at least one user stored in said first area and managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein said memory means stores a plurality of data for respectively prescribing different access rights to one user and a predetermined area in said second area in said first area, wherein the block unit includes a plurality of blocks that ~~define~~ include a first block number and a second block number, said first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): An information processing circuit comprising:  
a demodulating means for demodulating an input modulated signal;  
a processing means for processing said command;  
a modulating means for modulating a result of said processing; and  
a memory means including a first area for storing data of plural users and a second area used by said plural users stored in said first area and managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein said memory means stores data for using a predetermined area in said second area by the plural users in cooperation with each other in said first area.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a command from a predetermined user;  
processing said command by utilizing a memory section including a first area for storing data of plural users and a second area set in an unused area of said first area, said second area used by said plural users stored to said first area and managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, and storing plural data for respectively prescribing different access rights to the plural users and a predetermined area in said second area in said first area, wherein the block unit includes a plurality of blocks that ~~define~~ include a first block number and a second block number, said first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user; and  
transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a command from an apparatus for providing service;  
a processing means for processing said command;  
a transmitting means for transmitting results of said processing; and  
a memory section including a first area for storing block data relating to one or more service providers and a second area set in an unused area of said first area, said second area used by said one or more service providers stored in said first area and managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, said block unit including a plurality of blocks that ~~define~~include a first block number and a second block number, said first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user,

wherein said block data stored in said first area includes definition data which defines a predetermined area defined by the blocks in the second area and access right data which defines access rights to the second area, said second area being accessible by a user based on a plurality of the block data stored in the first area, said block data used by the respective service providers including the access right data which defines different access rights to the second area.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The information processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an unused area of said second area is assigned to said first area.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The information processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said command is processed by referring two or more block data of different access rights.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The information processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more service providers.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second area is accessed by referring two or more block data of different access rights.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more service providers.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said access right data is either read/write access data or read only access data.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said second area includes a block unit defined to be accessed from two or more service providers.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second area includes a block unit defined to be accessed from two or more service providers.

Claim 15 (cancelled).